sector banks for the last three years are given below:

As on 31st March of	Gross NPAs as percentage of total advances
1995	19.45
1996	18.01
1997	17.84

(b) Even though there is considerable variation in the performance of public sector banks, it would not be appropriate to describe any of them as non performing public sector banks having regard to their contribution to the economy. Some of the relatively weaker public sector banks have prepared strategic revival plans/action plans and detailed the steps contemplated by them to improve performance. These steps include concentrating on recoveries and reduction of NPAs, arresting generation of fresh NPAs, reducing cost of deposits, rationalisation of loss making branches, limiting recruitment to specialised cadres, technological upgradation, longer working hours, containment of operating expenses etc.

Impact of Sanctions on Indian Economy

1403. SHRI VEDPRAKASH P. GOYAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have appointed a team of experts to evaluate the impact on different sectors of Indian economy of sanctions or conditions imposed by USA and other countries against India in the wake of nuclear tests conducted by India in May, 1998;

(b) whether this team of experts has submitted its report;

(c) if so, the details of the same; and

(d) the steps Government have taken or proposes to take to meet the situation?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) to (c) No, Sir. However, all relevant Ministries of the Government of India, including Ministry of Finance and Ministry of External Affairs, are constantly monitoring the developments in this regard and evaluating the implications.

(d) The Economic Sanctions imposed on India by the U.S.A. and deferment of ODA by some other countries of Multilateral agencies are likely to have only a marginal effect on aid flows in 1998-99. The Union Budget for 1998-99 has proposed a number of measures to encourage foreign investment, including investments by NRIs.

Debt GDP and Debt Service Ratio

1404. SHRI N.R. DASARI:
SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state the debt-GDP ratio, debt-service ratio for the years 1992-93, 1993-94, 1994-95, 1995-96, 1996-97 and 1997-98?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): The external debt to GDP ratio and external debt-service (calculated by using cash payment method) to current receipts ratio are as under:

Year	External debt to GDP ratio(%)	Debt-Service ratio (%)
1992-93	39.8	27.5
1993-94	35.8	25.4
1994-95	32.3	25.6
1995-96	28.2	24.8
1996-97	25.9	22.6
1997-98	23.8*	N.A.

* End-September 1997 debt as a ratio of estimated GDP at market price for 1997-98.